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THE BRITISH ARE COMING

The Museum of the American Revolution's newest exhibit, "Cost of Revolution: The Life and Death of the Irish Soldier," coincides with one of the largest historical events in the city, Occupied Philadelphia. 2

MOAR

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WKND

"Cost of Revolution" opens this weekend. MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

When the *redcoats* come marching in

The opening of MOAR's latest exhibit coincides with Occupied Philadelphia.

MOLLY GIVEN

We all have heard stories about the American Revolution, especially living here in Philadelphia where so much of our country's vital history took place. We know about the impact the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the war fought on our soil had on our nation today, but what about around the world? The Museum of the American Revolution's latest exhibit, "Cost of Revolution: The Life and Death of the Irish Soldier," examines that question through the life of a young officer in the British Army and how his journey fighting the war in the United States impacted him for the rest of his life.

"Cost of Revolution" opens to the public this weekend, but that's not the only exciting happening taking place at MOAR. The wildly popular two-day living history event Occupied Philadelphia will also be in full force this Saturday and Sunday, and Philadelphians will get a firsthand look at what it was like in 1777 when the city was seized by the British and occupied for nine long months

"'Cost of Revolution: The Life and Death of the Irish Soldier' is really telling a pretty important story about the trans-Atlantic impact of the American Revolution," says the exhibit's lead curator, Matt Skic. "The events that took place here in Philadelphia really started to change the world and the role of government. We're telling that larger story through a personal story to make it more human and real."

The personal story MOAR chose to focus on was of British Army officer and magistrate of County Cork, Ireland, Richard St. George.

"We chose St. George because there are two paintings in the museum that have a really interesting connection to him. The two paintings depict the Battle of Paoli and Germantown, which took place right outside of Philadelphia when the British were trying to take hold of the capital," says Skic. "What this exhibit is all about is following St. George's journey through America and then back to Ireland to help show how the events that happened here effected change in Ireland and around the world in the late 1700s."

Occupied Philadelphia marches in this weekend. JUSTUS HENRY

The two paintings connected to St. George in the museum were baffling to many historians for years. Originally, the two battle paintings were believed to have been done by a prominent Italian artist, but since the artist had never been to the U.S. and the visuals were so close to the actual battle scenes, it was wondered if someone else was actually responsible. It is now confirmed that Richard St. George actually worked on the paintings with the Italian artist and he is even depicted in the paintings with a head wound, which caused him pain for the rest of his life.

The physical impact of the war was not all that St. George carried with him, however. After fighting with the British Army in the war in the States, and then returning to Ireland, St. George became an outspoken critic of the growing movement to establish an Irish republic independent from the British Empire in the 1790s. A few months before the outbreak of the Irish Revolution of 1798, St. George's tenants ambushed and killed him.

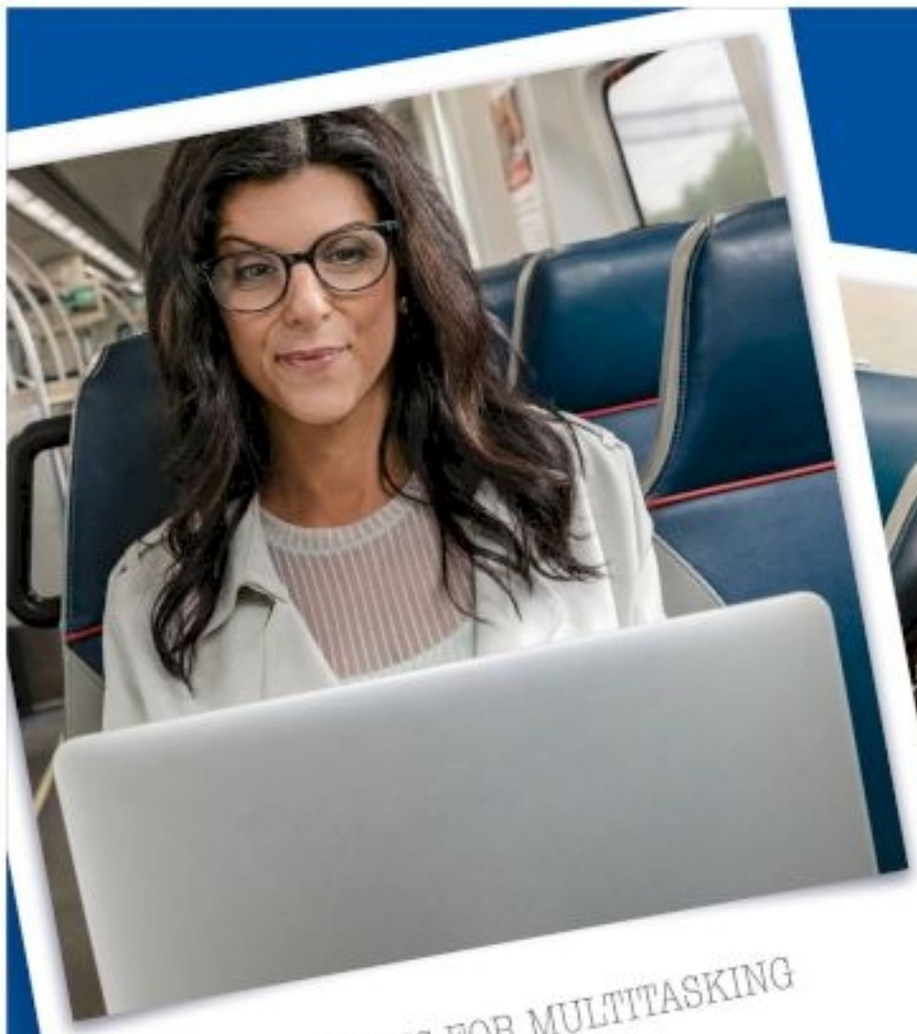
So what will the "Cost of Revolution" exhibit showcase?

"We're going to be bringing together 97 works of art and artifacts. This is our first international loan exhibit, so we're going to be seeing artifacts from institutions and private collections from the United States, England, Ireland and as far away as Australia."

The "Cost of Revolution" opening coincides with one of the largest historical events in the city, Occupied Philadelphia. Throughout the weekend, the museum will offer guided walking tours, special programming, and family-friendly activities exploring what life was like in the city while British forces controlled it.

"Occupied Philadelphia is re-creating the moments of late September 1777, right after the British Army marched into Philadelphia and captured the revolutionary capital. Richard St. Geroge was with the army in that area at that time. However, he was escorting American prisoners into Philadelphia, so at Occupied we will be showing the experience of captured POWs from Washington's army," says Skic. "You get to learn about civilian life here in Philadelphia during the British occupation. The population was really divided on whether to welcome these soldiers or be angry about them and their presence in the city. So you'll get to see a variety of perspectives on what it was like in the city when the British were here in 1777. This is the third annual, so we are really hoping to expand it. A lot of visitors in the past have really enjoyed the event where we showcase everything that happened 242 years ago."

To buy tickets and learn more about "Cost of Revolution: The Life and Death of the Irish Soldier" and Occupied Philadelphia, visit amrevmuseum.org.



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– EST. 1964 –

What are you *laughing at?*

"The Office: A Musical Parody."

The creator of "The Office: A Musical Parody" gives the scoop on the wildly popular show. **MOLLY GIVEN**

For fans of the wildly popular and highly quotable TV show "The Office," there isn't much that can top the sarcastic humor, colorful characters and memorable one-liners — until now. Parody writers Bob and Tobly McSmith have spent the better part of their career creating epic parodies of some of your favorite shows including "Saved by the Bell" and "Friends," and now they have set their sights on the employees of the Dunder Mifflin Paper Company. What the comedic writers want to showcase with each musical parody is a highlight of all of the aspects that make the shows so memorable, along with some of the ridiculous antics that come with these pop-culture icons. Bob McSmith sat down with Metro to give the scoop on what to expect when attending the over-the-top shows and chat about why he hopes these parodies can help create an escape from the world, even just for an hour.

For fans of the shows you parody, what do you think this experience adds for them?

When we do parodies, it's always loving — it comes from a place of love. Tobly and I kind of grew up without a lot of friends so we were obsessed with TV and Comedy Central, and just comedy specifically. So a lot of the shows that we started with were shows we grew up watching. Like "Saved by the Bell," we always imagined ourselves at Bayside, and then when we got to high school we realized, well, that's not exactly what it's like. Also, "Friends," our last show, both [Tobly] and I moved to New York the same day and that was a huge reality crash being, like, "Wait, people don't have gigantic apartments? You don't have breakfast with your friends every single day?" So I think that's part of the fun of it for the people who come. It does come from a deep, deep loving place for this material, but it also does shed a light on the reality of it and makes you think, "Huh, this is kind of ridiculous."

What was it about "The Office" that drove you to parody the show?

This is our seventh musical parody, and while working on our previous shows we always had "The Office" on in the background. It was our happy place and a way to relax because it's still a great show to this day. It's so funny and so well written, and after doing "Friends" it seemed like the next logical step. It was something we loved and something we thought we could bring justice to, but it was also something we were a little scared of as well

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Catch "The Office: A Musical Parody" onstage. ALL PHOTOS JEREMY DANIEL

because we really did love the show that much. Everybody who's worked on the show is a huge fan of "The Office" and they all bring their own take to the table.

When you're creating the parodies, how do you come up with the story line?
We basically cover all 10 seasons in two hours and that takes place in a single day at the office. We cover pretty much every episode. I think at some point in the writing process literally every character who has ever been in "The Office" was in there, but as we were going on we had to start slimming them down. But you're still going to see everything you would want to see in an "Office" parody.

What are some of the challenges of trying to combine all of that content into a show?
It definitely can be tricky, but as fans we know our favorite moments, and so it's really about knowing what the fans love and trying to cover that in a way that makes it feel real and like it could all happen in a day. We've kind of learned that by doing these episodic parodies — again, like "Saved by the Bell." But this one we really wanted it to feel like a self-contained story that didn't follow the entire series throughout it, but you still get everything you would want.

Would you say you have to be a fan of "The Office" to enjoy the show?
I think it definitely helps, especially with those deep jokes. But we have had people who have never seen "The Office" but they love the show itself. I think that's one of the things about the TV show, is that the themes are so universal. It's a story about family, it's a story about love and it's a story about people you work with. I think anyone can relate to that. Our audiences are very young for this show: I've seen kids as young as 5 coming to the show and I think, "You've never worked a day in your life, how would you understand this?" But then I remember when I was a kid, I was watching "Cheers" and I had never been in a bar or had a drink. But you still relate to these stories because they're human stories at the end of the day.

What do you think it is about "The Office" TV show that makes it so wildly funny and popular still?
I think it's the writing of the original, it was so smart and every once in a while they would just gut-punch you with these beautiful moments that leave you sobbing in the middle of the day. So we tried to sneak a couple of those in there as well.

> **"It does come from a deep, loving place for this material, but it also sheds a light on the reality of it and makes you think, 'Huh, this is kind of ridiculous.'"**
>
> Bob McSmith

How much original music and dancing is in the show?
It is a full-blown musical. There are big dance numbers. It's all Broadway-caliber singing, dancing and acting. The kids going out on the tour are absolutely amazing.

What do you hope audiences take away from the show?
What Tobly and I really hope is that the show is an escape. Life now is so hard, you wake up every day pretty much thinking the world is going to end at any moment, so this is just a two-hour escape to spend with these characters you love. It's joyous, it's funny and it's heartfelt. Also, a message that Tobly and I really wanted to get through is when you spend your day at work, you spend so much time with these people who are now your family and your friends. Take time out of the day to say you love them, go to the watercooler and share a joke, or do a prank. Love the company of your company — that's what we really wanted to get across to people.

Catch "The Office: A Musical Parody" Sept. 28 and 29 at the Merriam Theater. For tickets, visit kimmelcenter.org.

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Join the *Philly POPS* for a night at the movies

Experience iconic film soundtracks played live during "POPS Goes to Hollywood" this weekend.

MADELINE PRESLAND

The Philly POPS take movie soundtracks out of your home stereo and into the concert hall at the Kimmel Center this weekend.

Hear award-winning scores performed by a full orchestra during "POPS Goes to Hollywood." These soundtracks play their own essential roles in driving story lines. The music shapes feelings like suspense when your favorite character is in danger, drama in conflict and joy in a happy ending. This is true for every movie genre, but the POPS are paying tribute to action and adventure films. The concert program includes old and new favorites from composers including Danny Elfman, Hans Zimmerman and the composer Philly POPS Music Director Todd Ellison refers to as "the master of all," John Williams.

"John Williams uses music so well to bring the right emotion," says Ellison. "Think about 'E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial,' when they are on the bike and flying in front of the moon, and the music soars as the bike is soaring up in the air. That's the kind of beautiful artistry I'm trying to celebrate."

"POPS Goes to Hollywood" is the official concert debut for Ellison since he started with the POPS in July. Ellison, named one of "Broadway's Electric Conductors" by The New York Times, has a fascination with movie soundtracks that only grew with personal experience.

"I conducted Beyoncé in 'The Pink Panther,' so I got to see some of that process firsthand," says Ellison. "You really need to take your time with writing this music and how it goes with all the shots with the actors. In movies, the music is almost always just in the background. What we're doing is putting it front and center to really appreciate what visually enhances films. Most people usually don't get to hear this music played live since it's just in your sound system. In this concert, you get to feel the power in person, which is an experience that can't be repli-

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The Philly POPS take movie soundtracks out of your home stereo and into the concert hall at the Kimmel Center this weekend. - BACHRACH.PHOTO

ISTOCK

"Think about 'E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial,' when they are on the bike and flying in front of the moon, and the music soars as the bike is soaring up in the air. That's the kind of beautiful artistry I'm trying to celebrate."

Todd Ellison, Philly POPS music director

cated at home or in the theater."

"POPS Goes to Hollywood" includes scores from classics like "Jurassic Park" and new iconic pieces that go beyond entertainment. The scores present new musical challenges for the orchestra, including bringing new instruments and voices. The orchestra's principal cellist will bring out an electric cello to play the futuristic theme from "Wonder Woman." The Academy Award-winning original score for "Black Panther" incorporates traditional African percussion, including the talking drum.

"It's really funny to look at these scores and go, 'So THAT'S how they did it!'" Ellison says. "'Black Panther' has a very symphonic landscape, but you're taking traditional action-adventure music and layering it with this unique instrument."

Though adult movie buffs will love this concert, the show is also a perfect opportunity to introduce young kids to the unforgettable experience of seeing a live orchestra performance. The POPS encourages everyone to dress up as their favorite superhero or movie character to really get into the spirit. (Don't forget to get a photo with the T-Rex in the lobby.)

"POPS Goes to Hollywood" runs at the Kimmel Center Sept. 27-29. Tickets start at $35. Visit phillypops.org for more information and to purchase tickets.

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Executive Chef Matt Harper will be prepping up a beautiful spread of a tasty number of crustaceans for Kensington Quarter's seafood boil this Sunday. Guests can choose from a general $45 ticket or a $65 all you can eat and all you can drink Miller High Life option. **Sept. 29, 3-6 p.m., Kensington Quarters, 1310 Frankford Ave., $45-$65, kensingtonquarters.com**

Looking for some fun and unique things to do in Philly this weekend? We've got you covered.

ARTS & CULTURE

BARNES' YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NIGHT

The Barnes Foundation is hosting another Young Professionals Night with an "Orange Crush" theme inspired by the fiery oranges in Paul Cézanne's paintings. Guests can delve into a world full of golden hues and autumn landscapes, indulge in refreshing drinks and delicious treats, enjoy live music, explore art and much more. Be sure to wear red or orange to stick with the theme.
Sept. 27, 7-10 p.m., Barnes Foundation, 2025 Benjamin Franklin Pkwy, $15-$35, barnesfoundation.org

PENNSBURY MANOR ESCAPE ROOM

Philadelphians will have the chance to try and escape two different themed exhibits at Pennsbury Manor's Escape Room. "Cottage in the Woods" will take guests back in time to solve a murder from the 1600s (perfect for beginners) and "Witches in the Woods" will take guests back to the Witch Trials of the 1700s. Both rooms are organized into three times slots and are limited to ten participants.
Sept. 27, times vary, Pennsbury Manor, 400 Pennsbury Memorial Rd., Morrisville, $30-$35, pennsburymanor.org

FAMILY

FREE MOVIE NIGHT AT SISTER CITIES PARK

Head to Sister Cities Park this weekend for a free movie night perfect for the whole family. This Friday, the park will be showing "Hocus Pocus" and the Sister Cities Café will offer kid-friendly meals, snacks and soft drinks, along with beer, wine and cocktails for visitors 21 and older. As a bonus, starting at 7 p.m., TD Bank will also be providing free popcorn. **Sept. 27, 7:30 p.m., Sister Cities Park, 210 N. 18th St., free, centercityphila.org**

SHOPPING

FOURTH FRIDAY

It's time to shop till you drop down on Fabric Row this weekend. Both Fourth Street and South Street businesses will be staying open late and hosting special scheduled events from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. this Friday. Expect art, music, food, sales, specials, free light bites, shopping and much more.
Sept. 27, 4-9 p.m., various locations, Fabric Row, fabricrow.com

MUSIC

MARTIN GARRIX

The "In the Name of Love" DJ is coming to the City of Brotherly Love and will be performing an outdoor concert in the Wells Fargo Center parking lot. The Dutch musician will be performing some of his greatest hits including "Scared to Be Lonely," "Animals," "No Sleep," "High on Life" and more. Garrix will be in Philly for one night only. **Sept. 28, 7:30 p.m., Wells Fargo Center, 3601 S. Broad St., $25-$150, wellsfargocenterphilly.com**

GOING OUT

OKTOBERFEST AT PIAZZA POD PARK

Celebrate Oktoberfest at Piazza Pod this weekend and enjoy a day filled with beer, brats and much more. Guests can spend the day trying delicious bites and sipping on refreshing brews while listening to live music and participating in family activities. **Sept. 28, noon-8 p.m., Piazza Pod Park, 1075 Germantown Ave., piazzapodpark.com MOLLY GIVEN**

Fall for the Arts is this weekend. WENDY COCANNON

35TH ANNUAL FALL FOR THE ARTS FEST

Head to Germantown Avenue in Chestnut Hill to welcome the fall season in and indulge in a day full of art, music, tasty treats and shopping with over 150 unique vendors. The festival will also feature live ice sculpting, glass-blowing, a kids zone, antique cars and much more.
Sept. 29, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Germantown Avenue, Chestnut Hill, free, chestnuthillpa.com

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'First Love' master filmmaker hits all the marks and then some

Takashi Miike takes us through his newest gangster film.

JAMES CASE

Takashi Miike elevated what it means to be a prolific director. With most American directors, the pace of one project a year is a high rate. Miike sometimes completes more than five major projects a year. Since his debut in 1991, he's directed over 100 Japanese theatrical, television and film productions. His name is a brand within itself in the way Scorsese and Spielberg are brands in the West.

What separates Miike from directors here is Miike's tonal breadth. Miike's films can be violent, whimsical, bizarre, controversial, humorous, romantic, satirical, downright horrifying, supernatural, musical and even family-friendly. You can pretty much pick any genre, and Miike has made a well-regarded film within it.

Within all of that work, Miike is best known for the genre he continues to return to — Yakuza gangster films. But his newest film, "First Love," doesn't feel remotely like a veteran director knocking out another film — it's thoughtful, sublime and self-aware.

"I think as a director, I haven't evolved very much," Miike said. "I feel like I'm still at the starting gate. And I'm just like, stuck there. It's like the starting where you have the path to success."

"First Love" is an acerbic, anarchic, noir-tinged Yakuza film blending genres — it's the story of a young boxer and a call girl who fall passionately in love while getting innocently caught up in a drug-smuggling scheme over the course of a very long night in Tokyo.

"I'm still kind of in that category of feeling like starting filmmakers in a way, and I'm actually thankful that I can maybe still see things with fresh eyes or do things with as much youthfulness as I maybe I did before."

Miike knows the ins and outs of the Yakuza gangster flick intimately, and it shows in the details of "First Love." The critique of the Yakuza film and lifestyle is apparent in subtle asides characters make as the plot and carnage advances.

"First Love" finds its footing when it is most irreverent and teetering on the absurd. As the kill count piles up, in more unusual and surprising methods, the characters' own escalating desensitization to the violence starts to mirror that of the audience.

As some of the elements become over-the-top, it highlights how normalized the portrayal of violence in media has become — that only the furthest degree of absurdity ends up shocking us — and we're left asking ourselves what it is about stories like this that we're drawn to in the first place. Our appetites and tolerances become highlighted, along with our attempts to ascribe meaning and signifiers, almost as excuses to violence in media to begin with.

The central protagonist works a professional boxer. His relationship to violence is organized, structured and policed. The rules and boundar-

WELL GO USA

ies are clearly defined, although he may not be a passionate fighter, or even clear why he's a boxer — he simply boxes, though he's certainly a skilled fighter. It's only when his relationship to boxing collapses that indirectly spurs his connection to the gangs.

Miike seems acutely aware of the inherent draw of gangster films and the violence within, and "First Love" is rife with rich, subtle musings on violence, greed and the perils where one feels there is no hope. It feels like a Tarantino film, but with the bombast discarded and human depth and subtlety added.

PROVIDED

It's important to note that there isn't the faintest whiff of pretension around "First Love" or someone as well-versed in filmmaking as Miike. He's an affable, pleasant, professional, quintessentially working director. His practices are honed, his method of directing taut and the execution of his vision is unstrained by overt critical discourse or overthinking his process. What's most important to Miike is that making movies stays centered as a pleasurable experience.

"We're gonna have fun making this film. And then, you know, we're going to show it to everyone else. And if people like it, that's even better. But if they don't like it, you know, then maybe they'll say, 'Okay, well, you know what? Your film isn't for us.' And I think actually, that's the way it should be. I don't think that I should be making films that are meant to reach every single audience," Miike says.

Considering his vast filmography and varied working palette, it's impressive that terminology such as "film" and "cinema" feels out of place when talking to Miike. The seemingly diminutive "movie" and "flick" feel more appropriate to the tone and vibe in "First Love" as it does to Miike's lower-budget or direct-to-DVD end of the spectrum — but all with the first-class production values. A cinephile as well as popcorn-and-soda viewer will have a sense of glee at the direction and action. Seeing a master at the height of their powers simply having fun and being unconcerned with pleasing a mass audience leads to an enjoyable crime-filled romp that ends up pleasing a mass audience.

"These people are also there, they're just trying to live their lives in a way," Miike says. "They are also trying to kind of leave some kind of legacy or, you know, some kind of testament to their life. Within that context, you have all this chaos that occurs."

It's valuable that our entry point to the story is through the central characters who are essentially civilians. They've either become immersed in the underworld against their will or have found themselves in too deep with the almost-comically-crowded Yakuza underbelly. We see the absurdity and violence of the Yakuza through the lens of these two relatable characters — and to a savvy, or cynical viewer it almost serves as agitprop against the aesthetic and values of Yakuza and gangster films as a whole. The final shots further highlight the values of normal living and finding value in honest living.

"First Love" opens in select theaters this weekend.

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Director Daniel Scheinert on the unpredictable *'Death of Dick Long'*

"The Death of Dick Long." Daniel Scheinert, Andre Hyland, and Michael Abbott Jr. JONATHAN PURVIS

The hilarious whodunnit hits theaters this weekend. PAT KING

A lot can happen when left without a responsible and capable chaperone. That in itself is the initial push that sends the characters into disarray the hilarious new whodunnit, "The Death of Dick Long."

The film, directed by Daniel Scheinert from a script written by Billy Chew, follows the events that happen after a night of drinking between three friends goes horribly wrong. After a night of band practice in Zeke's basement — Pink Freud, hammering out a sloppy cover version of "It's Been Awhile" by Staind — Zeke, Earl and Dick crack cans into the night in an attempt to "get weird" after Zeke's wife says goodnight. We then cut to Zeke and Earl frantically driving their friend Dick to the hospital as he is losing a considerable amount of blood in the backseat of Zeke's car. To preserve their "anonymity," Zeke and Earl decide to leave Dick in front of the hospital so they will be free and clear of any trouble. The only problem is, Dick doesn't make it through the night, and now they need to get their story straight on what happened.

The film takes you through an offbeat and viciously funny ride through a slow and charming part of America guided by two bumbling yet lovable fools who ultimately mean well but can't seem to lie well enough to hide their horrible and shameful secret. When the truth is inevitably revealed, it's a twist that will stick with you. That is guaranteed.

"It's my favorite script that I've ever read," says Scheinert, who is most famously known as part of directing duo known as "The Daniels" who were responsible for the cult classic, "Swiss Army Man."

"It made me laugh a lot but it also made me sweat from nervousness," he added. "It always stuck with me as a movie I'd want to see someday."

> **"The hope was to make a movie that was a love letter to interesting, funny people."**
>
> Daniel Scheinert

The film's heart and soul is represented by the friendship between Zeke and Earl — played by Michael Abbott Jr. and Andre Hyland, respectively. Zeke is a sloppy family man who desperately tries to keep his transgressions secret from his wife Lydia, played by Virginia Newcomb, and his young daughter Cynthia, played by Poppy Cunningham. Earl, on the other hand, has no real ties or responsibilities. While perpetually sending out plumes of vape smoke, he packs up his truck with all of his belongings, but before he can leave town, he gets pulled back in as the two friends' secrets begin to unfurl.

"They reminded me of people I knew growing up but also I feel like in a parallel universe, I could have been Zeke and Earl, for sure," says Sheinert of the two Nü metal loving buffoons who just can't seem to get things right. "I enjoyed laughing at them when I read it. But, I also empathize with them because I'm [also] terrible at lying. If I had just a few more bad friends like Earl, I would have ended up in an unhappy marriage in Alabama, sneaking off at night to 'get weird.'"

Scheinert, who also plays Dick Long in the film, grew up in rural Alabama and wanted to both poke fun at the touchstones of his old stomping ground, but also show the beauty in the eccentricity of the people who reside there.

"Early on, we decided that I wanted to approach this movie differently than most of the stuff I've made so far with other Daniel [Kwan] and do, like, an anthropological journey into a really specific place but with a sense of humor," he explains. "I was nervous about how people in the town that I grew up in would think I was portraying them [or] if I was making fun, you know? But, people are hilarious anywhere you go. The hope was to make a movie that was a love letter to interesting, funny people. Not something that was dealing in tropes for comedic effect. Hopefully the fact that we loved this place and these people bled through in the film, and created a kind of dissonance where it's like, 'I'm laughing but this feels loving.' I always love those kind of movies more than a full-on love-letter movie or a full-on satire. It's fun to do both."

The New $1 Cream for All Your Neuropathy Discomfort

A cream, not a pill, may be the most effective solution yet for neuropathy sufferers; increases sensation in the legs and feet, relieving burning, tingling, and numbness

By Dr. Henry Esber, Ph.D.

BOSTON – An exciting clinical use survey study shows that a new cream can relieve leg and foot discomfort in just 15 minutes of applying.

And according to the study participants, burning, tingling, and numbness were the most common symptoms to be relieved.

The cream, called *Diabasens*, recently developed by scientists in San Diego and became an instant hit among those suffering with neuropathy.

It's patent pending formula works within minutes of contacting the skin, initiating two phenomena's in the body.

The first phenomenon is known as vasodilation which triggers arteries to expand, improving circulation in the extremities.

The second is called TRPA1 activation and this is what really has people excited.

Research Shows Correlation Between Nerve Damage and Sensation

Published research shows that neuropathy symptoms arise when the nerves in your legs and feet break down and blood flow is lost to the areas which surround them.

As the nerves begin to die, sensation is lost. This lack of sensation is a major cause of burning, tingling, and numbness.

Remarkably, *Diabasens* contains one of the few known substances to activate TRPA1, a special sensory pathway right below the skins surface which controls the sensitivity of nerves. It's these nerves that allow you to feel hot, cold, and touch.

And although this pathway has been known about for years, neither a drug or a pill has been able to target it successfully. That's why *Diabasens* is so impressive.

"It all comes down to sensation. When sensation is lost the foot feels constantly asleep. It may also burn and tingle. When sensation is increased, these nagging symptoms often go away", explains Dr. Henry Esber, one of the scientists behind *Diabasens*.

"That's why *Diabasens* performed so well in our clinical use survey study. It increases sensation and blood flow wherever it's applied. It's impressive to say the least"

A Brilliant Technology Most Failed to Consider

Until now, many pharma companies have failed to develop a means of TRPA1 activation to manage neuropathy. *Diabasens* is one of the first to take full advantage of this amazing discovery.

"Today's treatment methods have focused on minimizing discomfort instead of attacking its underlining cause. That's why millions of adults are still in excruciating discomfort every single day and are always battling effects" explains Esber

"*Diabasens* is different. Since the most commonly reported symptoms...burning, tingling and numb legs and feet...are caused by lack of sensation of the nerves, we've designed the formula increase their sensitivity.

And since these nerves are located right below the skin, we've chosen to formulate it as a cream. This allows for the ingredients to get to the site faster and without any serious side effects" he adds.

Study Finds Restoring Sensation the Key To Effective, Long Lasting Relief

With the conclusion of the human clinical use survey trial, the makers of *Diabasens* are offering it nationwide. And regardless of the market, its sales are exploding.

Men and women from all over the country are eager to get their hands on the new cream and according to the results study participants reported, they should be.

In the trial above, participants taking *Diabasens* as needed experienced relief in just 15 minutes after applying! Burning, tingling and numbness were the most commonly reported symptoms to improve.

Even more impressive, when asked if this was the best product they used for their legs and feet, 90% gave a resounding "Yes" with all participants concluding they would absolutely recommend it to someone else.

A breakthrough in neuropathy management and supportive care, Diabasens is shown to provide relief from:

- Discomfort
- Numbness
- Tingling
- Swelling
- Balance

Targets Nerves Right Below the Skins Surface

Diabasens is a topical cream that is to be applied directly the legs and feet. It does not require a prescription.

The active ingredient is a compound known as cinnamaldehyde.

Studies show that neuropathy and discomfort caused when peripheral nerves breakdown and blood is unable to circulate into your legs and feet.

As these nerves deteriorate, sensation is lost.

A NEW WEAPON FOR FIGHTING NEUROPATHY DISCOMFORT: Diabasens increases sensation and blood flow wherever its applied. It's now being used to relieve burning, tingling, numbness among other discomforts.

This is why you may not feel hot or cold and your legs and feet may burn, tingle and go numb.

Worse, without proper blood flow, tissues and cells in these areas begin to die, causing pain that seems to never go away.

The cinnamaldehyde in *Diabasens* is one of the very few compounds in that can activate TRPA1, a special sensory pathway that runs through your entire body.

According to published research, activating this pathway increases the sensitivity of nerves, relieving feelings of tingling and numbness in your legs and feet.

Supporting ingredients boost blood flow, support cellular health and stimulate the nerves for increased sensation.

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With daily use, *Diabasens* users report remarkable improvements in their quality of life without of the serious side effects or interactions associated with prescription drugs.

Readers can now enjoy an entirely new level of comfort that's both safe and affordable.

Users have found is also extremely effective, especially if nothing else has worked with 90% ravings it's the best leg and foot product they've ever tried.

How to Claim a Risk Free Supply of Diabasens

This is the official release of *Diabasens*. As such, the company is offering a special discounted supply to any reader who calls within the next 48 hours.

A special hotline number and discounted pricing has been created for all Pennsylvania residents. Discounts will be available starting today at 6:00AM and will automatically be applied to all callers.

Your Toll-Free Hotline number is 1-800-643-9868 and will only be open for the next 48 hours. Only a limited discounted supply of *Diabasens* is currently available in your region.

Consumers who miss out on our current product inventory will have to wait until more becomes available and that could take weeks. The company advises not to wait. Call 1-800-643-9868 today.

THESE STATEMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN EVALUATED BY THE FDA. THIS PRODUCT IS NOT INTENDED TO DIAGNOSE, TREAT, CURE, OR PREVENT ANY DISEASE. RESULTS MAY VARY. DIABASENS IS NOT A DRUG.

Fun things to do in Philly this month

27

Chad Daniels

Sept. 27

The popular comedian is hitting the stage at Punch Line Philly this month while in the City of Brotherly Love. **Sept. 27, 9:45 p.m., Punch Line Philly, 33 E. Laurel St., $25-$35**

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

28

Philadelphia Pizza Crawl

Sept. 28

Eat your way through the City of Brotherly Love's pizza scene at this delicious and carb-filled extravaganza that kicks off at JJ Bootleggers. **Sept. 28, 2-8 p.m., JJ Bootleggers, 35 S. 2nd St., $20-$50**

4

Maggie Rogers

Oct. 4

The popular songstress will be hitting the stage in Philly and performing some of her greatest hits including "Alaska" and "Light On." **Oct. 4, 7 p.m., The Mann Center for the Performing Arts, 5201 Parkside Ave., $80**

6

Kitten Yoga

Oct. 6

Join Amrita Yoga for an adorable and peaceful yoga class with some furry friends while benefiting the Pennsylvania SPCA. **Oct. 6, 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m., Amrita Yoga and Wellness, 1204 Frankford Ave., $25**

10

Wale

Oct. 10

The popular rapper is bringing his "Everything Is Fine" tour to the City of Brotherly Love and will be performing some of his greatest hits. **Oct. 10, 9 p.m., Theatre of the Living Arts, 334 South St., $30+**

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12

Philly Hard Cider & Doughnut Festival

Oct. 12

This part bar-hop, part sweet celebration is the perfect kickoff to fall and features five bars showcasing hard ciders and doughnut creations. **Oct. 12, 3-9 p.m., JJ Bootleggers, 35 S. 2nd St., $17-$25**

15

Beer Bingo With Evil Genius and Jameson

Oct. 15

Head to Devil's Den with Evil Genius and Jameson as they kick off their exciting and colorful game of boozy bingo. **Oct. 15, 7-10 p.m., Devils Den, 1148 S 11th St., free**

17

Ali Wong

Oct. 17

The actress, writer and co-median is hitting the stage at the Met Philadelphia and will be performing her stand-up for a total of two shows. **Oct. 17, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., Met Philadelphia, 858 N. Broad St., $50-$125**

18

23rd Street Armory Oktoberfest

Oct. 18

Prost! Head to the 23rd Street Armory to join in on all of the large pretzel, stein-drinking fun during one of the largest Oktoberfests in the city. **Oct. 18-19, times vary, 23rd Street Armory, 22 S. 23rd St., prices vary**

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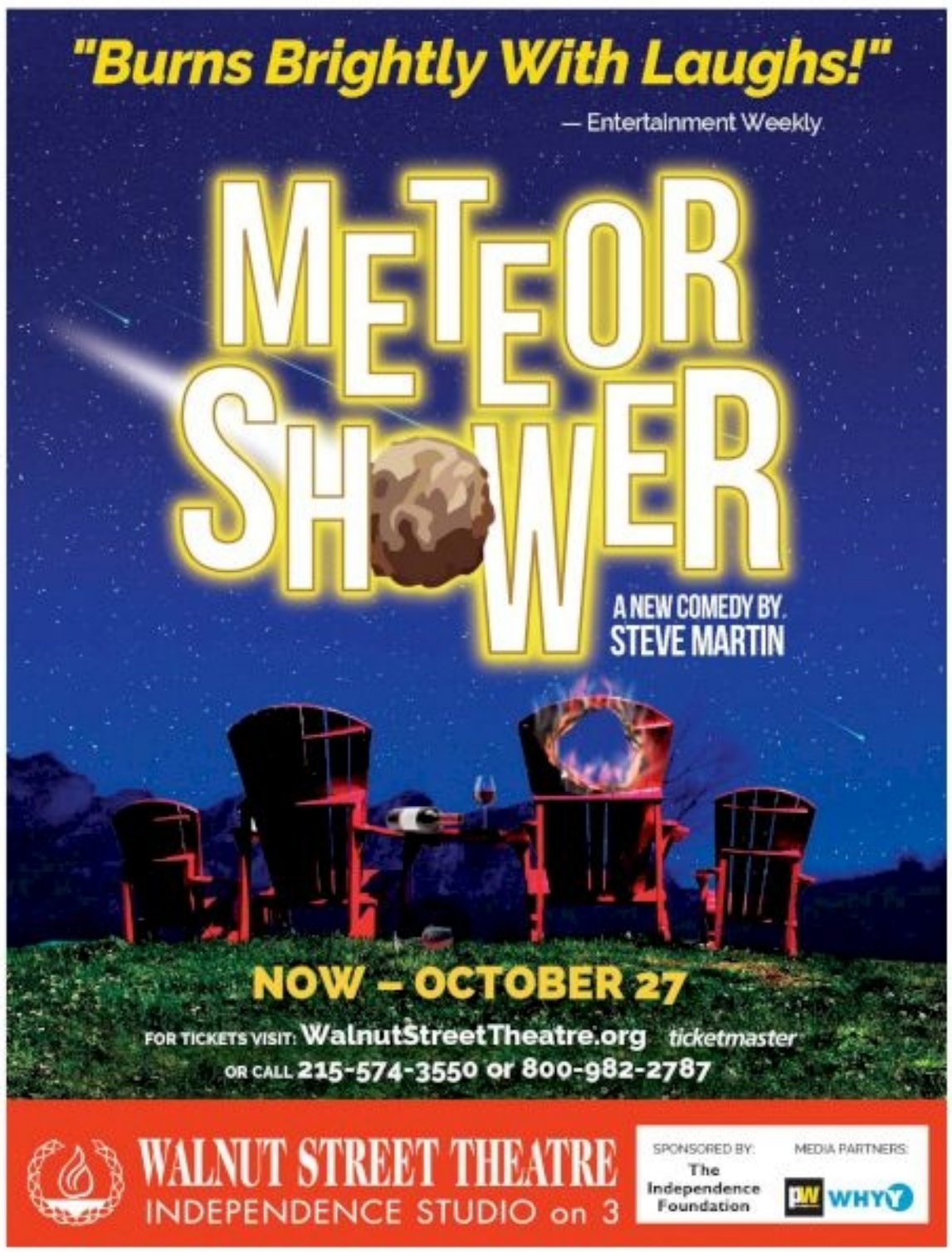
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Bianca Del Rio on her new stand-up tour, *'It's Jester Joke'*

The hilarious "Drag Race" champion will be in town next week.

PAT KING

PROVIDED

After nearly 25 years of performing, drag icon Bianca Del Rio is finally ready for world domination. The "Ru Paul's Drag Race" champion is currently in the midst of her massive "It's Jester Joke" tour, which has already sold out huge venues all around the world. Now back in the States, the tour is hitting 40 different cities in what will go down as the biggest solo stand-up tour from a drag performer ever in North America.

When I speak with Bianca — otherwise known as Roy Haylock — over the phone, one thing is apparent: The long road to this moment has not been lost on the dynamic performer who was once named the No. 1 "Most Powerful Drag Queen in North America" by Vulture.

"It's just surreal," Del Rio says. "I've said to other people before, I think the great appreciation for any outlet or any audience is something I can't say enough. I've worked being in drag now for 24 years. I've also been in bars where I would work a Monday night and there would be four people. So when you see anything over four, you're always grateful! I try not to get into my head about it. I think because of social media and the fact that people ask the question, that it stirs up the emotion then. But I try to look at it objectively, look at it as it's just another night and you've got to do what you know you do! And then, because I'm doing stand-up, I'm not playing a large venue with extra dancers and lighting and flips and kicks. Gratefully, I'm doing what I've always done, just on a larger scale. Which is wild to think about. I had no idea that this would be obtainable in my lifetime."

While preparing for this tour, Del Rio also had another career milestone in the past year as a cast member in the British musical "Everybody's Talking About Jamie" in London's West End. But while taking a break from her rigorous stand-up schedule, Del Rio made sure to remember which jokes were landing the hardest in different corners around the globe.

"I made sure that before I went into the musical that I had documented every joke, every nuance, and every laugh that I knew I had gotten in Asia and Australia. Because I always say, 'Oh, I'll remember this,' and I usually won't," Del Rio explained. After all, in musical theater, there is a script and directions to follow. Stand-up, on the other hand, is a swan dive into the unknown.

"The trick with it, which I've found for me particularly with the way I work, is that you just need to have it in your head," she says of returning to the road. "There's no particular order and there's no rhyme or reason. Because each night the audience will take you on that journey and you just have to have it in your head. It's a little different than when you're doing a musical, where literally there's a cue every night. Everything is exactly the same. Whereas for me, with my solo show, it's kind of flying without a net. Which is the exact opposite of legitimate theater [laughs]."

That thrill of building a show all by herself with just her onstage — performer, director and even costume designer — is something that acting in a big production put into perspective for Del Rio.

"I never realized the freedom I had until you are doing something else where you don't have freedom," she says. "What I loved about doing the musical was that it wasn't all my responsibility. It wasn't my material. I wasn't the star. It was a really nice break to do eight shows a week and to be a co-star and to be committed to the material you were given. It was good material, but it was something that I was not used to...It was a great thing to have happen at 44 years old. You kind of go, 'Whoa, this is how the other world lives!' And how lucky to have that experience because you start to realize, 'Okay this is fun [laughs].' But in theory, it's completely different than how I get to do my own show. It gives you a greater appreciation for it. I am pretty lucky there's freedom. But then, some people are very scared of going onstage and rambling for an hour and a half, where I love it."

Make sure to catch Bianca Del Rio at The Kimmel Center Wednesday, Oct. 2.

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Whether it's on the corner of a couch, a piece of sidewalk that is out of place, or just out of dumb luck, stubbing your toe is one of the most annoying things ever and it always puts me out of whack every time I do it.

— Peter, *Metro New York reader*

ISTOCK

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Aries Question what you are doing and what you want to achieve. Discuss your plans with someone you trust to give you straight answers.

Taurus Someone with more experience will offer a new perspective regarding a situation you face. A change is heading your way. Preparation will make the transition smoother.

Gemini Refuse to let your emotions take charge. Use your intelligence and charm to outmaneuver anyone trying to manipulate you. Don't expect to be told the truth.

Cancer Plan your actions with care. If you're observant, you'll recognize how best to react to someone giving you mixed messages. Protect your reputation and possessions.

Leo Do your own thing. Don't feel obligated to help someone else get ahead when you should be concentrating on your success. A personal encounter will spark your interest. Romance is on the rise.

Virgo Let your creativity lead the way. Whether dealing with a relationship or socializing with peers, your articulate way of expressing yourself will prompt others to support your efforts.

Libra When faced with negativity, look for the positive side and keep moving forward. Overcoming obstacles will encourage strength and help you gain respect and a better position.

Scorpio You can change someone's life by reaching out and offering help. If you do a good deed today, an unexpected reward will be yours. A lifestyle change is heading your way.

Sagittarius Finish what you start to avoid being reprimanded. If you make a promise, honor it, and if you discuss other people, be sure you are honest. Protect your reputation.

Capricorn A challenge should be looked at carefully before you get involved. You might be better off putting your energy into personal gains instead of empty posturing.

Aquarius Keep going until you get what you want. Putting your intellect to work for you and testing your physical attributes will lead to new opportunities.

Pisces A partnership should be based on trust, honesty and shared goals. Before you get involved with anyone, be sure your intentions and motives coincide. Avoid taking on too much. EUGENIA LAST

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Joseph Maguire, acting director of national intelligence, testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, Sept. 26, 2019. REUTERS

White House acted to 'lock down' Trump–Ukraine call records: Whistleblower

Administration accused of cover-up.

A whistleblower report released on Thursday said President Donald Trump not only abused his office in attempting to solicit Ukraine's interference in the 2020 U.S. election for his political benefit, but that the White House tried to "lock down" evidence about that conduct.

In a report released by a Democratic-led congressional committee, the whistleblower said White House officials intervened to shift records of a controversial phone call between Trump and Ukraine's president from the computer system on which they would normally be stored.

"Instead the transcript was loaded into a separate electronic system that is otherwise used to store and handle classified information of an especially sensitive nature," the report said. "One White House official described this act as an abuse of this electronic system because the call did not contain anything remotely sensitive from a national security perspective."

The whistleblower is a CIA officer and was assigned at one point to work at the White House, two sources familiar with the probe into his complaint said. The New York Times first identified the whistleblower as a CIA officer, which Reuters confirmed.

House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi accused the president of involvement in a cover-up to hide details of his attempts to persuade Ukraine to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden, a leading Democratic presidential contender ahead of the 2020 election.

Trump reacted with fury on Thursday and assailed Pelosi's Democrats for launching an impeachment inquiry into him this week over the Ukraine affair.

Trump told staff from the U.S. mission to the United Nations he wanted to know who provided information to the whistleblower, according to an audio recording provided to the Los Angeles Times by an attendee.

"I want to know who's the person, who's the person who gave the whistleblower the information. Because that's close to a spy," Trump can be heard saying on the recording.

"You know what we used to do in the old days when we were smart? Right? The spies and treason, we used to handle it a little differently than we do now," Trump said.

The White House did not dispute the comments.

> **"I want to know who's the person who gave the whistleblower the information. Because that's close to a spy."** President Trump

Democratic Rep. Raja Kirshnamoorthi of Illinois, a member of the intelligence committee, said it is essential that the committee hear from the whistleblower.

"We need to talk to the whistleblower at the earliest, because I am concerned at some of the statements the president has been making about the whistleblower, and whether he's going to retaliate against the guy," he said.

On July 25, Trump pressed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to investigate Biden and his son, according to a summary of the telephone call released by the Trump administration on Wednesday. REUTERS

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National Coffee Day: It's all about the beans for American coffee drinkers

National Coffee Day is right around the corner, so what better time to explore American's drinking habits? Peet's Coffee did a study with OnePoll survey to celebrate the caffeinated beverage.

Peet's polled 2,000 respondents for the survey, and 83 percent of respondents self-identified as coffee connoisseurs. Most respondents of the study were millennials or members of Gen Z or Gen X. Respondents who took this poll were between 18 and 54 years old.

The survey showed that when it comes to choosing beans, the No. 1 priority for coffee lovers is the freshness of the beans, followed by the caffeine content. The third thing coffee connoisseurs look for when it comes to choosing the beans is flavor profile.

GETTY IMAGES

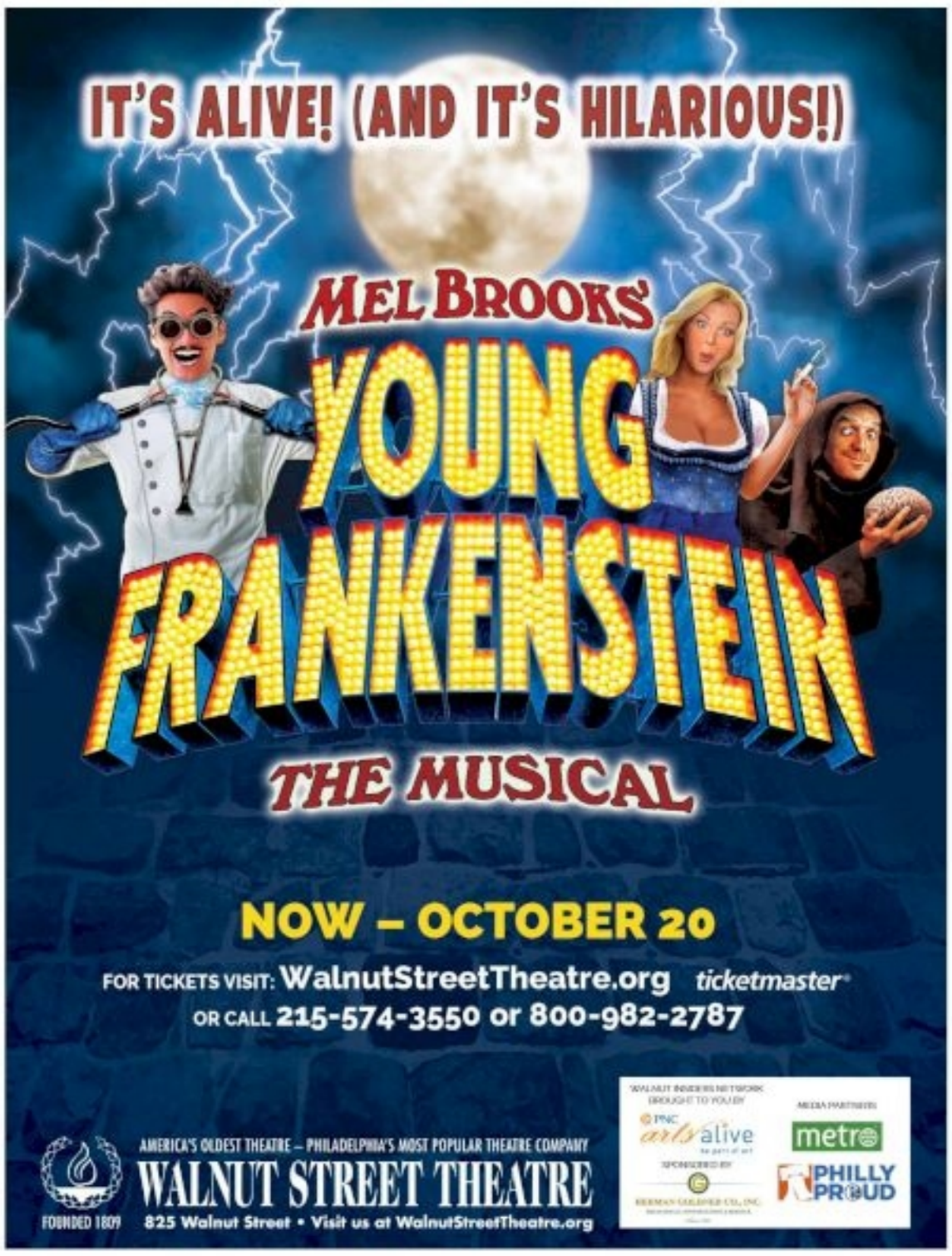
50

Over 50 countries around the world produce coffee.

Another important bean aspect for coffee fans is their origin. The coffee regions that topped America's list include Colombia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Guatemala and Hawaii. Although these are the favorites of Americans, well over 50 countries around the world produce coffee.

This study also showed that 86 percent of coffee connoisseurs are likely to take the time to research whether the beans they are purchasing are ethically grown and sourced. They are also likely to inspect whether the brand meets sustainability and environmental standards.

In case you were curious about where Americans get their cup of joe in the morning, another study done by Yelp shows that the No. 1 most searched-for chain in America has been Starbucks since 2014. BECCA GLASSER-BAKER



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Most Pennsylvanians want marijuana legalization

Governor included; officials shared findings of state tour.

BECCA GLASSER-BAKER
Rebecca.Glasser@metro.us

ISTOCK

The majority of Pennsylvania residents want marijuana to be legalized for adults, according to a statewide tour conducted by government officials.

Gov. Tom Wolf and Lt. Gov. John Fetterman on Wednesday announced the final report from their statewide recreational marijuana tour, which ran from February 2019 through May 2019, and broke down their findings for the public.

There are a lot of significant takeaways from the report, including:

- 65-70 percent approve of adult-use cannabis legalization.
- Residents favored creation of an oversight entity to regulate sales in a strict, controlled manner.
- Residents expressed near-unanimous support for decriminalization and mass expungement of nonviolent and small cannabis-related offenses.
- People see economic potential, saying the state would save money on prosecution and incarceration of cannabis-related offenses. Residents who commented said regulated sales could create jobs. They specified that income generated should be used for infrastructure, education, and property tax relief.
- Many emphasized that cannabis, if legalized, should be grown on Pennsylvania farms and should create jobs in Pennsylvania.
- There was near-unanimous support for removing cannabis from its current classification as a Schedule 1 drug, alongside deadly drugs like heroin.
- Support or opposition does not appear to be contained to certain demographics or party affiliations.

Gov. Wolf said in a statement, "We now know the majority of Pennsylvanians are in favor of legalization, and that includes me."

Gov. Wolf and Lt. Gov. Fetterman are seeking to move forward accordingly:

1. They want legislatures to get a decriminalization of nonviolent and small cannabis-related offenses bill to the governors' desk.
2. They want to work to help restore justice and expunge convictions of small and nonviolent cannabis-related crimes.
3. They are planning on calling the General Assembly to debate and consider adult-use recreational marijuana.

US vaping-related deaths rise to 12, illnesses climb to 805

ISTOCK

U.S. health officials on Thursday reported 805 confirmed and probable cases and 12 deaths so far from a mysterious respiratory illness tied to vaping, with the outbreak showing no signs of losing steam.

Last week, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported 530 cases and seven deaths due to severe lung illnesses.

U.S. public health officials have been investigating these illnesses, but have not linked it to any specific e-cigarette product.

The House of Representatives began public hearings about the illness this week while Massachusetts imposed a four-month ban on sales of all vaping products, including those used for tobacco and marijuana, which is legal in the state.

Investigators have, however, pointed to vaping oils containing marijuana ingredient tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) or vitamin E acetate, a substance used in some THC products, as a possible cause of these illnesses.

The increased scrutiny also prompted leading e-cigarette maker Juul Labs to suspend all broadcast, print and digital product advertising in the United States this week.

Public health officials have advised consumers to quit vaping and urged those who continue using the devices to avoid buying such products on the street, using marijuana-derived oil with the products or modifying a store-bought vape product. REUTERS

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MCDONALD'S

McDonald's testing meatless burger in Canada

McDonald's Corp. will test a new "plant, lettuce and tomato" sandwich using Beyond Meat patties in some restaurants in Canada next week, the company said on Thursday, following major rivals' bets on the plant-based protein mania in North America.

Shares of Beyond Meat jumped 16 percent immediately after the announcement and later pared gains to trade 9 percent higher. The shares have roughly tripled in value since the company's listing on the stock market in May.

McDonald's stock was up marginally. The world's largest burger chain joins Tim Hortons, KFC and Dunkin' Brands in adding products made with Beyond Meat patties to their menus.

As consumers grow more concerned about health and the impact of industrial animal farming on climate change, the plant-based market is expected to explode to an estimated $140 billion over the next decade, according to Barclays. Beyond Meat, a pioneer of plant-based meat substitutes, is competing with Silicon Valley-based Impossible Foods for dominance of the market.

McDonald's rival Burger King and Impossible Foods teamed up in April for the U.S. rollout of a plant-based Whopper. The Impossible Burger is also sold at fast-food chain White Castle and at Disney theme parks.

COMPETITION HEATS UP

McDonald's has not yet indicated if it will launch a U.S. plant-based burger, but there has been intense market speculation on which meatless burger maker McDonald's could pick.

"(The) Beyond Meat selection is a good way to offset the parity of just going to Burger King for the same patty," said Tim Powell, a restaurants expert at consulting firm Foodservice IP. "We all have been pushing McDonald's to make this move...It opens the door to a whole host of new customers."

$1.50

Plant-based burgers typically cost $1-$1.50 more than meat patties — a price gap Beyond Meat and Impossible Foods are investing in closing as soon as possible.

Powell warned that setting prices could be a challenge for McDonald's. Plant-based burgers typically cost $1-$1.50 more than meat patties - a price gap that Beyond Meat and Impossible Foods are investing in closing as soon as possible. REUTERS

Local officials in 31 US states write to McDonald's on sexual harassment

REUTERS

Scores of local government officials from 31 U.S. states pressured McDonald's Corp. on Thursday to do a better job of protecting workers from groping, obscene comments and other forms of sexual harassment, adding their voices to an employee-led campaign that has seen walkouts at several stores.

In a letter to CEO Steve Easterbrook, 115 mayors, commissioners, city councilors and school board members asked McDonald's to meet with workers, hear their stories and together craft tougher policies to effectively stamp out harassment.

The officials are part of a advocacy network called Local Progress.

Members of the U.S. Congress have written similar letters and employees have ratcheted up pressure on McDonald's at a time that the chain and other fast-food restaurants have struggled to find and retain enough staff.

The letter said McDonald's employees have filed more than 50 sexual harassment complaints with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Reuters could not verify this because EEOC complaints are not public.

When asked to comment on the letter, McDonald's referred Reuters to its Aug. 28 statement announcing a new training program for safe workplaces, which has support from 2,000 franchisees.

"Together with our franchisees, we have a responsibility to take action on this issue and are committed to promoting positive change," said Chris Kempczinski, McDonald's USA president. REUTERS

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MATT BURKE

Matt Burke is a veteran sports journalist and the Founder and Editor in Chief of MetroBet.

You never want to be the one that leaves money on the table.

So when the rare opportunity for free cash presents itself, you don't need a master's degree in finance to realize that you should probably grab that green.

Online sportsbooks are quickly popping up across Pennsylvania and New Jersey and they are not only in competition to get you to sign up but also want to lure you away from the sketchy off-shore sites. To entice prospective bettors, these books are all offering risk-free match deposit bonuses — and in some cases, more. The odds are in the consumer's favor right now — at least in these early stages in PA and NJ — as there are no rules against signing up with multiple sportsbooks. Why not get all of the free money you can?!

Here is a look at the top sportsbooks in PA and NJ and what they're currently offering:

FanDuel Sportsbook

FanDuel is now in the sports betting game in addition to its fantasy roots and it currently has the largest risk-free bet offer in PA and NJ at a whopping $500. If you lose the first bet that you make betting with FanDuel, they will refund your bet amount up to $500 in site credit.

You can take advantage of this exclusive offer through FanDuel and MetroBet by going to **TinyURL.com/y665p-abz**

DraftKings Sportsbook

DraftKings Sportsbook has the largest deposit bonus offer as you can get up to $500 by signing up through MetroBet at **TinyUrl.com/y34qm-hdg**

DK will also kick in a risk-free bet up to $200 for new users.

SugarHouse

SugarHouse is offering up to $250 in free deposit match bonus money, but what separates SH here is that you can get a free $50 VISA gift card by using our in-house MetroBet promo code. All you have to do is go to **MetroBet.us/Sugar** and enter promo code **METROBET**

If you maximized all of these options, you could make the easiest $1,500 of your life without even having to win one bet! You can always make a withdrawal from your account at any time, too, if you go on a cold streak with your bets, or even if you come to the realization that sports betting just ain't your thing.

TWEET OF THE DAY

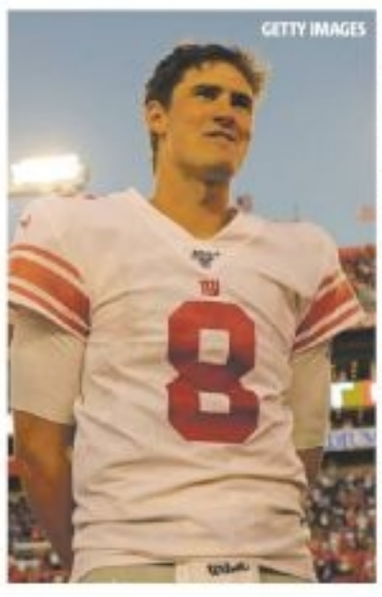
Cousin Sal
@TheCousinSal

I'm cutting the Red Zone Channel from my DirecTV package. Too many gross Patriots featured between 1-4 Eastern Standard Time.

Best Bets

NFL Week 4 betting: Redskins at Giants

Trends bettors should be all over the Redskins as they visit Daniel Jones and the Giants on Sunday afternoon. Case Keenum and company didn't look too great against the swarming Bears defense last Monday, but the Redskins have covered in seven straight games following a double-digit loss at home. Washington is also 5-2 against the spread in their last seven road games. The Redskins should have some success moving the chains against a Giants defense that's next-to-last in the league in yards allowed per play (6.8). Jones looked great in his debut against the Bucs, going 26-of-40 for 353 yards and two TDs with no INTs. However, he'll be without Saquon Barkley (high-ankle sprain) for the foreseeable future. Jones can also expect a bit more resistance from Washington's defense compared to Tampa's dreadful stoppers. There are plenty of negative trends to be found against New York in this one. The Giants are 1-7-1 against the spread in their last nine games at MetLife Stadium and have dropped six straight September home games. They're also 2-5 against the spread in their last seven divisional games and 4-16-1 against the spread in their last 21 games following a cover.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The play: Redskins +3

ROBERT CRISCOLA

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NFL WEEK 4

WASHINGTON REDSKINS AT NEW YORK GIANTS -3

MINNESOTA VIKINGS AT CHICAGO BEARS -2

CAROLINA PANTHERS AT HOUSTON TEXANS -4.5

CLEVELAND BROWNS AT BALTIMORE RAVENS -7

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS -6.5 AT DETROIT LIONS

NE PATRIOTS -7 AT BUFFALO BILLS

DALLAS COWBOYS -2.5 AT NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

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As season ends, focus shifts to Gabe Kapler's job security

The Phillies manager will be on the hot seat this winter.

JOVAN ALFORD
sports@metro.us

Phillies manager Gabe Kapler's job status will be in question this winter. GETTY IMAGES

For the second consecutive season in the Gabe Kapler era, the Philadelphia Phillies will miss the MLB postseason. In both seasons, the club has experienced epic collapses down the stretch, which could be credited to the inabilities of Kapler or GM Matt Klentak.

Last season, the Phillies had a record of 64-49 in the first week of August and leading the N.L. East. But their postseason dreams came crashing down as they proceeded to go 16-33 down the stretch, finishing in third place (80-82).

It seems like everything that could've gone wrong for the Phillies did, and the blame was placed squarely on the shoulders of Kapler.

Therefore, the Phillies went out and retooled their team in the offseason, signing Bryce Harper, Andrew McCutchen and David Robertson, and trading for Jean Segura and J.T. Realmuto.

With those respective moves in mind, along with the players that the Phillies already had on the roster, many analysts predicted that they would either win the N.L. East crown or at least hold a Wild Card spot this season.

But as things would come together, they would quickly fall apart due to a variety of reasons (injuries, lack of starting pitching depth, and an inconsistent offense). On May 29, the Phils held a 3.5 game lead in the N.L. East and were 11 games above .500.

They are now 79-79 and in fourth place in the division heading into the last four games of the season.

Needless to say, Phillies' upper management has a tough decision to make on Kapler's future this offseason.

If they do decide to bring him back in 2020, there will be a segment of Phillies fans who will be unhappy, to put it lightly.

However, if the Phillies do not decide to keep him for next season, they could have their eyes on some veteran, familiar faces like Joe Girardi, Joe Maddon or Mike Scioscia.

Back in August, Jon Heyman mentioned on his podcast "Big Time Baseball" that Scioscia, who is a native of Upper Darby, Pa., is very interested in the job.

Would any of these managers change the Phillies' fortunes in 2020 and do a better job than Kapler? Possibly, but the front office has to do their job as well.

Kapler was asked about his future with the organization after the Phillies lost to the Washington Nationals on Tuesday afternoon.

"We're going to have plenty of time to reflect on the fact that we didn't get to the postseason, which was the goal and the only thing that we thought about all season long," he said, per NBC Sports Philadelphia.

"I love this organization. I love this team specifically. I love working for this front office. I love working for this ownership group. And look, I'm going to manage this club as long as I can. Because I think I give us a great chance to win and I think because I care deeply about the success of this franchise."

That being said, can you blame Kapler for his starting rotation falling apart or losing key players to injuries? Not at all.

Can you blame him for his questionable lineup decisions or taking pitchers out of games too early? Certainly.

It comes with the territory of being an MLB manager.

But one would think that he would learn from those rookie mistakes in his second year.

That didn't happen.

Nevertheless, it will be up to Phillies owner John Middleton to make the final decision on Kapler's future, after missing the postseason for the eighth consecutive season.

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Hard-pressed to find Phillies positives in 2019

There's not much to write home about when it comes to the 2019 Phillies.

JOE PANTORNO
joseph.pantorno@metro.us

JT Realmuto was a lone bright spot during a disappointing season. GETTY IMAGES

You'd be hard-pressed to find someone who would call the 2019 season a success for the Philadelphia Phillies.

Expectations were not met after an offseason that yielded the mega-contract of Bryce Harper with additional big-time acquisitions like JT Realmuto, Jean Segura and Andrew McCutchen.

Questionable managing and a tone-deaf front office that failed to address the largest issues within the roster will be put under the magnifying glass this winter. That goes without saying.

There will also be the endless hot takes after game No. 163 on whether or not Bryce Harper's first season under a 13-year, $330 million contract was a success.

Hope you like being bashed with every single offensive stat (both traditional and advanced).

Harper's season will be another conversation for another day.

Despite failing to live up to expectation and falling apart down the stretch — which included Harper having to watch his former team, the Nationals, clinch a playoff spot — there were still some (albeit, very few) positive things to take out of 2019.

Realmuto is continuing his development as the best catcher in baseball as he had an impressive first season in Philadelphia after being acquired from the Miami Marlins.

He appeared in a career-high 145 games before his season was cut short on Sunday when he suffered a right knee injury.

Amongst catchers that appeared in at least 100 games this season, Realmuto accrued the most hits (148) and RBI (83). He finished third with a .275 batting average and ranked fourth among all MLB catchers with 25 home runs.

For a position where offensive production has historically been at a premium, Realmuto only cemented his status as the team's catcher of the future.

Realmuto was one of the lone bright spots alongside Harper in a Phillies offense that struggled mightily down the stretch. The loss of Andrew McCutchen turned out to be a damning one as Jean Segura failed to live up to expectations and Rhys Hoskins was a shell of his first-half self.

One of the more productive Phillies bats down the stretch was Adam Haseley, who slashed .301/.370/.458 in his final 27 games of the 2019 season.

While it's indicative of the struggles experienced by the Phillies, the organization might have stumbled across an important depth bat for next season and beyond.

Overwatch League Grand Final in Philly this weekend

GETTY IMAGES

Remember all those times your parents said that nothing good could come out of playing video games that long?

They were wrong.

The 2019 Overwatch League Grand Final is coming to the Wells Fargo Center on Sunday (3 p.m. ET on ABC) as the San Francisco Shock take on the top-seeded Vancouver Titans in the e-sports league's championship.

The winning team will take home a whopping $1.1 million after playing in front of a Philadelphia crowd that is already sold out.

All to see some guys play video games.

So what is the Overwatch League?

It's an international e-sports league comprising 20 teams, featuring the top players of Overwatch in the world. Overwatch is a team-based, first-person shooter game released in 2016.

A year later, the Overwatch League was formed featuring teams from New York, Boston, Los Angeles, Shanghai and Seoul.

The league has grown by eight teams over the past two seasons from across the globe.

Regular-season matches are four-map sets, meaning the teams play four separate games on different maps. In the postseason, which will be seen in the Grand Final, matches are a "first-to" format, meaning that each team must win a specified number to come out on top.

Sunday's final will feature a marquee matchup between two of the league's best players.

San Francisco boasts the league's MVP in Jay "sinatraa" Won while Vancouver will rely on Rookie of the Year Hyo-jong "Haksal" Kim.

The Grand Final on Sunday will allow Philadelphians to get their first taste of hosting Overwatch League matches.

Over the first few years of the league's existence, a majority of matches have been played at Blizzard Arena in Burbank, California. However, the league experimented with "homestands" this season hosted by Dallas, Atlanta and Los Angeles.

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S&D FILE NO. 17-058231
Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. as Trustee for Mortgage Assets Management Series 1 Trust
PLAINTIFF
VS.
Unknown Heirs, Successors, Assigns, and All Persons, Firms, or Associations Claiming Right, Title or Interest From or Under Michael A. Masciantonio, deceased; Nicholas L. Masciantonio, Known Heir of Michael A. Masciantonio, deceased; and Thomas Masciantonio, Known Heir of Michael A. Masciantonio, deceased
DEFENDANTS COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
CIVIL DIVISION
PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

NO: 180401100

To the Defendants, Unknown Heirs, Successors, Assigns, and All Persons, Firms, or Associations Claiming Right, Title or Interest From or Under Michael A. Masciantonio, deceased; Nicholas L. Masciantonio, Known Heir of Michael A. Masciantonio, deceased; and Thomas Masciantonio, Known Heir of Michael A. Masciantonio, deceased: TAKE NOTICE THAT THE Plaintiff, Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. as Trustee for Mortgage Assets Management Series 1 Trust has filed an action Mortgage Foreclosure, as captioned above.

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Court of Common Pleas for the County of Philadelphia, August Term, 2019, No. 2343.

Notice is hereby given that on August 23, 2019, the petition of Haalim Tucker was filed, praying for a decree to change his name to Haalim Boone.

The Court has fixed court date October 18, 2019 at 9:30AM, in Room No. 691, City Hall, Philadelphia, PA for hearing.

All persons interested may appear and show cause if any they have, why the prayer of the said petition should not be granted.

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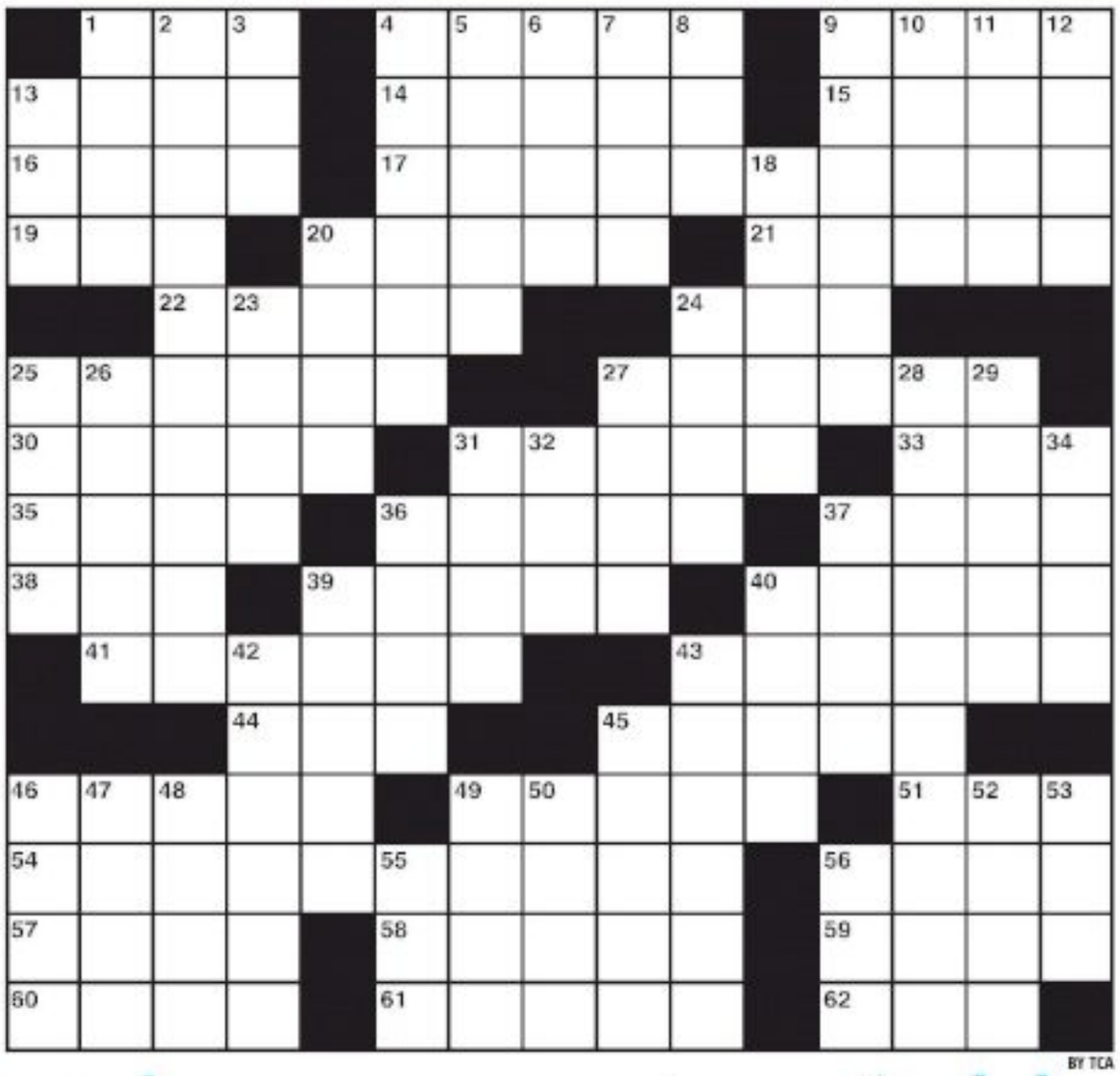

ACROSS
1 Leave high and __; abandon
4 Fills a suitcase
9 Part of the foot
13 On the house
14 By oneself
15 Story
16 Remove from office
17 Redundancy
19 "What Kind of Fool __?"
20 Mount
21 Orange peels
22 Passed out cards
24 In favor of
25 Lard
27 Most rational
30 Dressing choice
31 Pitt & Garrett
33 "__ Just Not That Into You"; Aniston film
35 Eczema symptom
36 Measuring device
37 Letter style
38 Boston cream __
39 Cracker spreads
40 Actress Garbo
41 Academy Awards
43 Flamboyant; showy
44 Word after women's or ad
45 Freshwater fish
46 Off __; intermittent
49 Panama hat material
51 Curved bone
54 Hairdresser
56 "What's My __?" of old TV
57 Be flexible
58 Pick-me-up
59 __ in a while; occasionally
60 Periods in history
61 In __; chic
62 Word of disgust

DOWN
1 Percussion instrument
2 Homes
3 "Not __"; words to the impatient
4 Early release
5 Open-eyed
6 Police officers
7 Part of the leg
8 "Ready, __, go!"
9 Clothing
10 Parade spoiler
11 Lump of dirt
12 Barnyard birds
13 Actor Barrett
18 Presses
20 __ browns; breakfast dish
23 Apiece
24 Lose color
25 Tight hold
26 Numerical comparison
27 Hangs limply
28 On a __; with barely enough money
29 First extra inning
31 Cave dwellers
32 Regret
34 Remain
36 Apparel
37 German wife
39 Artist's purchase
40 Shine
42 Cirri
43 Neighbor of Belgium
45 Remain behind
46 Singer/actress __ Lane
47 At no time, to a poet
48 Comic Carvey
49 Inverness native
50 Wee
52 Linear measure
53 Mayberry resident
55 "Don't judge a book by __ cover"
56 Rawls or Dobbs

BY TCA

metro.us/wordsearch

W	W	A	B	E	A	R	A	R	F
I	R	C	Y	P	T	V	X	A	E
V	R	E	P	P	E	P	S	C	G
N	I	R	O	N	M	A	N	S	W
E	E	L	G	I	N	O	M	O	Y
V	Y	E	L	P	I	R	R	M	N
E	R	S	S	E	R	T	C	A	E
S	R	E	V	O	L	O	W	T	T
M	G	W	E	A	C	H	S	U	H
G	O	O	P	O	T	T	S	X	P

Actress
Avengers
Emma
Glee
Goop
Gwyneth
Hush
Iron Man
Mr. Ripley
Oscar
Paltrow
Pepper
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Seven
Two Lovers

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A	S	I	H	
A	L	P	C	R
S	D	S	K	E
	N	A	O	P

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4	6			5			2	
1					4			3
					1	9	5	
					2	3		1
	2	4				7	9	
7		1	9					
	1	7	4					
2			1					6
	9			6			1	2

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K	E	N	O		A	D	A	G	E		P	E	R	E
I	R	O	N		H	O	D	G	E	P	O	D	G	E
D	O	C		M	A	R	E			R	O	S	E	S
		C	H	U	R	N			W	O	K			
L	O	U	I	S	A			C	A	N	Y	O	N	
A	P	P	L	E		S	L	A	N	G		V	O	W
V	E	I	L		B	L	O	K	E		B	E	T	A
A	R	E		T	R	I	B	E		C	A	R	E	D
	A	D	R	O	I	T			P	A	R	A	D	E
			E	W	E			F	R	A	N	C		
S	H	A	P	E			L	O	A	N		T	O	T
L	A	B	O	R	A	T	O	R	Y		T	I	M	E
O	R	E	S		D	A	N	C	E		A	V	I	D
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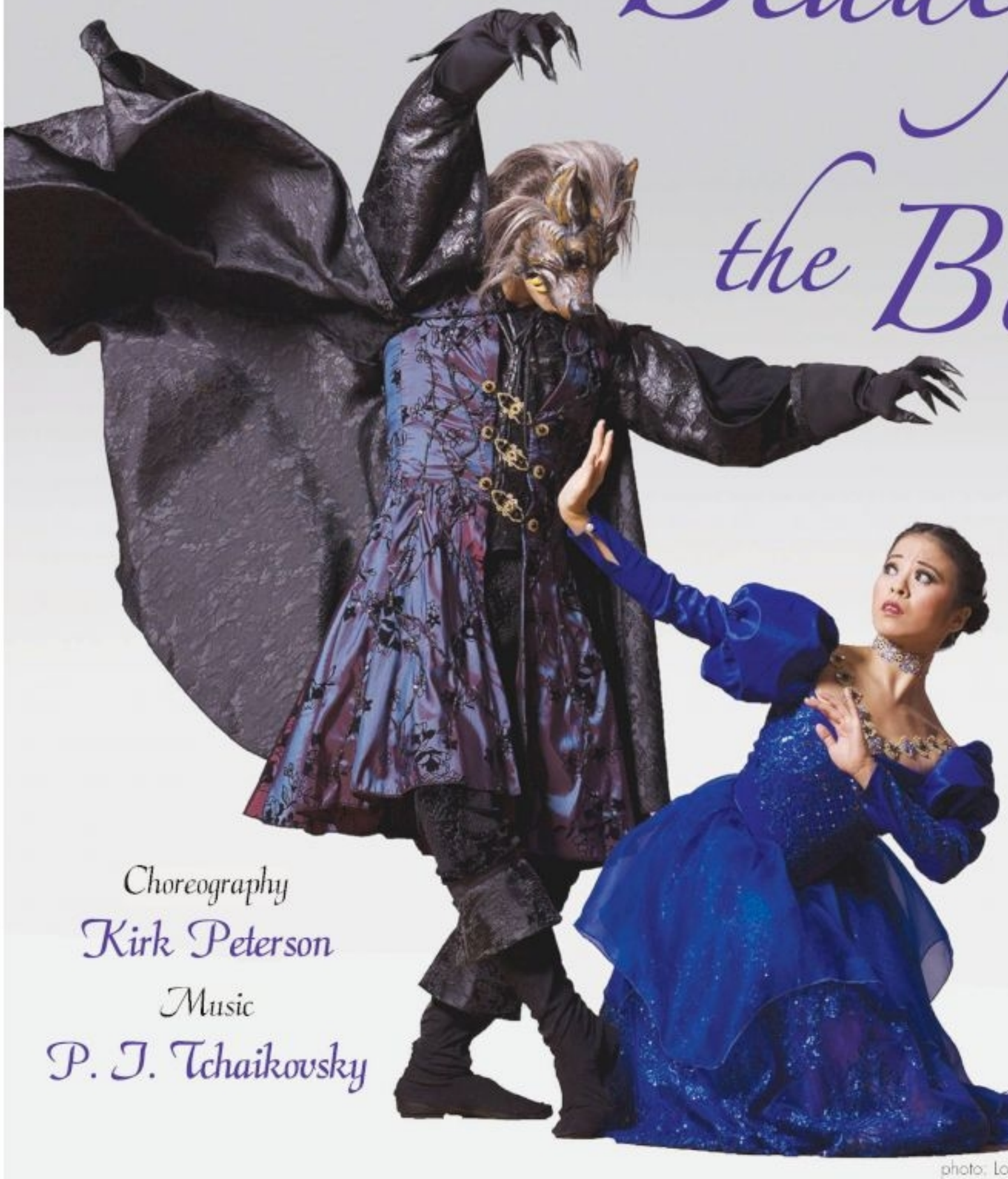

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